

Word on the Street

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Here's Life Inner City in New York City

Matt and Anna Shenk

We're Over Halfway There!

Thank you so much for your prayers and financial support! We have been so encouraged by the 90-plus individuals, families and churches who have committed to partner with us as we seek to serve the Lord in New York City.

Your generosity has helped us to reach 60% of our monthly support-raising goal, which means we're over halfway through the support-raising process and inching closer to being able to go back to New York and into our full-time urban ministry. We're right on track with where Campus Crusade says we should be at this point in the process. Of course, we wish we were already at 100% of our goal and serving in New York City!

We appreciate all your prayers for steadfastness of faith and endurance during this time. While we very much enjoy sharing what God is doing in New York City and in our lives as we travel all over the Southeast, we struggle at times with why God isn't bringing support in faster and getting us into the mission field He's called us to. While we have been traveling, we have often wondered how to pray in this time of preparation and waiting.

We recently started reading a book together called *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home* by Richard J. Foster. In the book, he reminds us that God is not a genie in a bottle that we control; we do not call on God to come out and fix a perceived problem (i.e. support not being raised fast enough) and then put Him back in the bottle until we have some use for Him again. Foster has also reminded us that it is not our actions (i.e. praying better or working harder) that motivate God to raise up new partners. Instead, God is the creator of the universe, who is trustworthy and faithful and omnipresent. He loves us and is at work in our lives, whether we see it or not. He cannot be manipulated by man for our purposes. And so we're learning to trust God in a deeper way, knowing that He will finish this task in His perfect timing. We simply need to trust Him, seek His direction for our lives, and be faithful to do the work He has called us to each day.

Many of you have been asking when we will be returning to New York. It is a very good question indeed! We feel that we need to stay in the South, based out of Richmond, until we have raised the majority of our support. God has blessed us with a great network of friends and family here, and we will stay here until we simply run out of folks to meet with. Our prayer is that we will be back in New York by March and we invite you to join us in praying for that.

Many of you have helped us significantly by referring us to family or individuals at your churches or Bible studies who have been willing to hear about what we're doing and to consider partnering with us. In fact, a large percentage of our partners are people we had never met before, who were referred to us by other ministry partners. Would you take a few minutes to think through who you could refer us to? This is critical to us reaching our goal and we greatly appreciate you taking this step of faith in this area. If each of our partners refers us to five people and one of those individuals partners with us, we could reach 100% of our goal in no time at all! **Please call us or email us with your ideas: annashenk@yahoo.com or (347) 276-4419.**

Prayer Requests

- Our prayer is that God would open doors to new networks of potential partners through our current partners. We have now met with most of the individuals in our personal network.
- Please continue to pray that we would be able to enjoy this time in our lives and have a correct perspective about this journey that we are on.
- Please pray that God continues to use this process to grow us spiritually and strengthen our relationship with Him and each other.

In closing, here's a picture of some of the kids from our neighborhood in Crown Heights. These are all kids in the "NoLimitz" after-school program that our friends Beth, Jared and MK coordinate at Greater Restoration Church. These are just some of the kids we can't wait to share our lives with once we get back to New York!

Thanks for your support. You are an integral part of this ministry, and we could not do this without you!



Contact Information

Matt and Anna Shenk
819 Westcreek Drive
Richmond, VA 23236
Anna (347) 276-4419 or
annashenk@yahoo.com
Matt (646) 287-4197 or
mattshenk@yahoo.com

Please make checks payable to Campus
Crusade for Christ
Our account number is 0572439